

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 12072 171508Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 SAB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DOTE-00 IO-10 AID-05

COME-00 /086 W

----- 071048

R 162216Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2419

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 12072

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR ELTN CO

SUBJ: US COLOMBIAN MEETINGS ON DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY

REF: STATE 273456 (NOTAL)

1. DURING THREE DAYS OF ARDUOUS NEGOTIATION AND SOMETIMES HEATED DEBATE, COLOMBIAN AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES ACHIEVED AGREEMENT ON AFTOSA WORK PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS AND ON IMPROVEMENTS IN ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM WITHIN ICA. TEXTS OF WORK PROGRAM AND MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

2. SENIOR REVIEW GROUP. MEETINGS WERE HELD AS SCHEDULED DECEMBER 9 AND 10. DECEMBER 9 MEETING STARTED OFF NORMALLY ENOUGH WITH COLOMBIAN PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT AND REVIEW OF FINANCIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES. U.S. REPS AGREED THAT WHILE SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN TECHNICAL MATTERS, PROGRAM ITSELF WAS SERIOUSLY BEHIND SCHEDULE. SPEAKING QUOTE FRANKLY AND OPENLY UNQUOTE, U.S. REPS LISTED A WIDE RANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 12072 171508Z

AND FAILINGS IN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

WITHIN ICA. U.S. REPS RAISED SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SHORTCOMINGS DURING BOTH DAYS OF SRG MEETING, POINTING OUT THAT MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN COVERED IN THE RECENT REPORT PREPARED BY AUDITORS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

3. ICA MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE TO CRITICISMS WAS LARGELY DEFENSIVE IN TONE AND COMBINED WITH COUNTERCRITICISMS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT REALLY COMMUNICATED THESE PROBLEMS PREVIOUSLY. END RESULTS, HOWEVER, WERE A) AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES THAT U.S. REGULARLY WOULD PRESENT ICA MANAGEMENT WITH A WRITTEN LIST OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM AREAS (WITH COPIES TO WASHINGTON), B) AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO A WRITTEN WORK PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, AND C) GOC STATEMENT DURING THE RESTRICTED SESSION OF THE CG TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD QUOTE TAKE THE INITIATIVE UNQUOTE TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM.

4. AS REGARDS BUDGET, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO THE REVISED 1975 PROPOSALS. BUDGET FOR 1976 IS STILL UNDER REVIEW. HOWEVER, U.S. REPS REJECTED GOC PROPOSAL THAT IN INCLUDE FUNDS FOR SOCIAL PROJECTS IN AREAS ONE AND TWO, SUCH AS CLINICS AND ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT. GOC PROPOSAL WAS BASED ON REASONING THAT MORE IS BEING DONE FOR ANIMALS THAN FOR PEOPLE AND THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

5. HIGHWAY MEETING. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION-MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS GROUP MET AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 10. U.S. REPS PRESENTED EXPLANATION OF INJUNCTION AND EFFORTS TO SEEK CLARIFICATION AND/OR SUSPENSION. BASIC AREAS OF UNDERSTANDING, AS OUTLINED IN CG RESTRICTED SESSION MINUTES, INCLUDE A) COST ESTIMATE OF \$100 MILLION, WITH REALIZATION THAT COSTS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL GO UP, B) COMMON DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH THE REMAINING STUDY PROJECT IN COLOMBIA AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, AND C) RECOGNITION THAT CONSTRUCTION IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO PROGRESS IN THE FMD PROGRAM.

6. COLOMBIAN REPS (PARTICULARLY ALFREDO BATEMAN, COUNSELOR TO THE MINISTER) EXPRESSED STRONG GOC DESIRE TO INITIATE RIO LEON-LOMAS LAS AISLADAS SECTOR OF THE HIGHWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GOC REPS STRESSED THAT THIS SECTOR IS OF CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO COLOMBIA IN THAT IT WILL FACILITATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION AND THE MARKETING OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL CROPS. GOC POSITION IS THAT THIS SECTION COULD PROCEED NOW (EXCEPT FOR INJUNCTION), WITHOUT WAITING FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE FMD PROGRAM, SINCE ATRATO RIVER AND SWAMP PROVIDE NATURAL BARRIER TO THE SPREAD OF FMD.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 12072 171508Z

7. CONSULTATIVE GROUP. MORNING SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO LARGELY ROUTINE PRESENTATION OF ECA-USDA AND DOT-MOP REPORTS WITH THE FORMER INCLUDING A REVIEW OF AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DIFFERENCES.

AT AFTERNOON SESSION, U.S. REPS AGAIN POINTED OUT THAT, BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT SHORTCOMINGS, FMD PROGRAM WAS AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEHIND SCHEDULE. U.S. REPS SUGGESTED THAT CG CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH, SUCH AS A US-COLOMBIA JOINT COMMISSION, AND REVIEWED THE OPERATIONS AND SUCCESSES OF SIMILAR COMMISSIONS IN MEXICO AND PANAMA. COLOMBIAN REPS REPLIED THAT A JOINT COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE IN ACCORD WITH THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE MOMENT AND COULD CREATE PROBLEMS OF SOVEREIGNTY IN THAT THE COLOMBIAN SITUATION INVOLVES MUCH MORE THAN A PREVENTIVE PROGRAM. RATHER THAN A JOINT COMMISSION, COLOMBIAN REPS SUGGESTED RETAINING THE PRESENT STRUCTURE AND IMPROVING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN ICA. (NOTE: IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH U.S. REPS, VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DE POMBO STATED THAT WHILE HE WAS CONVINCED OF THE UTILITY OF A JOINT COMMISSION, IT WOULDNOT BE FEASIBLE TO PUSH FOR ONE NOW.)

8. IN ADDITION OT CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT COMMISSION, AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE CG AGREED A) THAT USDA AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REPS WOULD MEET INFORMALLY IN MARCH TO REVIEW PROGRESS UNDER THE JOINT WORK PROGRAM, B) THAT AT THE MARCH MEETING THE QUESTION OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED, C) THAT THE SRG AND THE CG WOULD MEET AGAIN IN JULY 1976, AND D) THAT THE CONCEPT OF A JOINT FMD PROGRAM BEYOND 1976 WAS DESIRABLE AND THAT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING COSTS AND ACTION WOULD BE HELD IN THE FUTURE.

9. COMMENT. THE SRG/CG MEETINGS APPEAR TO HAVE HAD POSITIVE RESULTS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE GOC COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS OF THE FMD PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WHETHER THEY WILL GIVE IT THE PRIORITY IT NEEDS REMAINS TO BE SEEN, WITH THE MARCH REVIEW CRUCIAL IN THIS RESPECT. WE CAN ANTICIPATE SOME ASSISTANCE FROM THE MOP WHICH, IN THE INTEREST OF RECEIVING THE GO-AHEAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST SECTOR OF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 12072 171508Z

THE HIGHWAY, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY PROJECT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BOGOTA12072  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750438-0957  
**From:** BOGOTA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751237/aaaabghu.tel  
**Line Count:** 157  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 273456  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US COLOMBIAN MEETINGS ON DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY  
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRN, CO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006